

ABSTRACT

**Method for allocating a bandwidth between network terminals in a
5 communication network and network including a medium access
controller for performing such a method**

A method for allocating a bandwidth between a plurality of network terminals
(NT_x) coupled, via a common link (L), to a main network station (LT) in a
10 communication network.

A medium access controller (MC) forwards permits to the network terminals,
each permit containing a terminal identifier and allowing a predetermined share
of bandwidth. It comprises two sets of counters, each set including one counter
(G_x or F_x) for each terminal. The bandwidth is split into a guarantee bandwidth
15 that is shared by operating the first set of counters and an excess bandwidth
that is shared by operating the second set of counters. The guaranteed
bandwidth is allocated according to fixed weights, and the excess bandwidth is
also allocated according to weights. The weights for the excess bandwidth are
either fixed or varying according to the load status of the terminals.

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